

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus, comprising:
 - a port integrated within a keyboard form factor;
 - 5 the port adapted to couple with a handheld computer;
 - a processor maintained in the keyboard form factor, the processor coupled to the port;
 - a network interface coupled to the processor;
 - at least one keyboard key coupled to the processor;
 - 10 the processor having memory; and
 - the memory stores code that enables the network interface and at least one keyboard key coupled to the processor to communicate with a handheld computer coupled to the port.
- 15 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the port is a Universal Serial Palm Connector.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the processor is an embedded processor.
- 20 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the code is adapted to configure a network connection.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a keyboard processor coupled to the processor and to at least one keyboard key, the keyboard processor generates a
25 unique character associated with a key when the key is articulated.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the keyboard form factor is a collapsible travel handheld computer.

5 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the keyboard form factor is a PDA thumb board.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second port comprises a USB port.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handheld computer is a smart phone.

10 10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handheld computer is a personal digital assistant.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a second port coupled to the processor and integrated with the keyboard form factor whereby the second port is adapted to communicatively couple with a mouse.

12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network connection is 802.11

13. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network connection is Bluetooth.

14. An apparatus, comprising:

a port integrated within a keyboard form factor;

the port adapted to couple with a handheld computer;

a processor maintained in the keyboard form factor, the processor coupled

5 to the port;

a network interface coupled to the processor;

at least one keyboard key coupled to the processor;

a second port coupled to the processor and integrated with the keyboard
form factor;

10 the second port adapted to communicatively couple with an input device;

the input device comprising a mouse;

the processor having memory; and

the memory stores a code that enables the input device coupled to the
second port to communicate with a handheld computer coupled to the port.

15 the code is adapted to display a mouse cursor on a handheld computer
display.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the second port is adapted to communicate
with an input device via a short-range radio signal.

20 16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the short-range radio signal is an 802.11
signal.

25 17. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the memory comprises a mouse interface
that converts a mouse input value received on the second port into a signal
representing that input value for a handheld computer coupled to the port.

18. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a virtual communication driver (VCD) in communication with the memory, the VCD resident on a handheld computer.

5 19. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the memory comprises a mouse interface that converts a mouse input value received on the second port into a signal representing that input value for a handheld computer coupled to the port.

20. A method in a computer system, comprising:

detecting a docking event on a first port integrated with a keyboard form factor, the first port also being coupled to a processor maintained in the keyboard form factor;

5 automatically enabling an input device coupled to a second port to communicate with a handheld computer coupled to the first port; and

displaying on the handheld computer a cursor whose position is controlled by the input device;

the input device comprising a mouse; wherein

10 the first port and the second port are integrated within a keyboard.

21. The software system of claim 20 further comprising disabling the input elements of a handheld computing device that is coupled to the first port when a detect undocking act occurs.

15 22. The software system of claim 20 further enabling a sleep act after a detect undocking act occurs.